

Church Events for Fall 2018

**First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
at 10 Station Rd in Hartland, Vermont 05048**

Rev. Lucia Anne Jackson, Pastor

Facebook: HartlandCongregationalChurch

Church Telephone: (802)436-2224 or via email at RevLucia13@gmail.com

Dear Church Family –

Once Labor Day rolls around, my energy shifts. Though it is still technically summer, I get into more of a “fall” mode. Lots of planning as the calendar fills with church activities. Do you feel it too? Even if your life isn’t tied to the school calendar, something about early September feels like new beginnings! Speaking of which, this Sunday, Sept 9th is WELCOME SUNDAY – the start of church school and re-covenanting all followed by an ICE CREAM SOCIAL for everyone. It is a great Sunday to invite family, friends and neighbors to church!

If your family and friends can’t make on Sept 9th, invite them for Sept 16th when we will have a ‘Celebration of all things Apple’ coffee hour – bring along your favorite apple treat to share (or try a new recipe). I could go on, every week there is something happening at church – Worship and Music, Bible Study and Youth Group, Church School and Women’s Fellowship, Hixon House and Prayer Shawl ministry– a multitude of ways to connect, to serve, to learn.

In these anxious and fearful times, our church is sharing the joy and comfort of faith and of community. We don’t claim to have all the answers, but we do know that there is good news to tell and to share.

Hope to see YOU in church – Joy - Lucia

Worship Schedule

**Sunday, Sept 9th 10:00 – WELCOME BACK SUNDAY!*

Church School Begins.

*11:00 Ice Cream Social for Everyone - bring a topping to share!
Wear informal clothes to church to play some simple games!!*

**Sunday, Sep 16th 10:00– Worship & Church School*

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour Announcing the Celebration of Apples Coffee Hour!! Get out your favorite apple recipe or try a new one and share your treat at Coffee Hour.

**Sunday, September 23rd 10:00 – Worship & Church School*

Organ Dedication and Celebrate our Music Ministry Service!

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour

5:00 Jr Youth Group (UCC) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UCC)

**Sunday, Sept 30th 10:00– Worship & Church School*

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour

Youth Group Trip to Bromley

**Sunday, Oct 7th – Worship & World Communion, Church School*

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour

5:00 Jr Youth Group (UCC) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UCC)

**Sunday, October 14th - Worship & Church School*

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour

**Sunday, October 21st - Worship & Church School*

11:00 Fellowship at Coffee Hour

5:00 Jr Youth Group (UCC) 6:30 Sr Youth Group (UCC)

**Sun, Oct 28th -Bible/Reformation Sunday Worship & Church School*

11:00 Brunch to benefit Youth Mission Trip 2018 (Here)

11:30 Aging with Dignity Class

**Sun, Nov 4th – Remembrance Sunday, Worship with Communion,
Church School*

11:00 Fellowship PUMPKIN Coffee Hour – you guessed it – bring your favorite pumpkin treats!

11:30 Aging with Dignity Class

5:00 Jr Youth Group (UU)

6:00 Mission Trip Slide Show & Info Session (UU)

6:30 Sr Youth Group (UU)

Board of Christian Education News and Notes:

We are ready to start a **New Year at Church School!**

My thanks to all of the volunteers who have returned to help this year! And to the new younger generation of volunteers! Sara White, Emma Allegretti, Silvia Hale and Madison Bowers are all on board to help us out this year!

If you are new to the church or would like to join us, please let me know.

The more volunteers we have, the less the load is for each. You will never be alone, and lessons are planned in advance and easy to carry out. And it's FUN!

We will start our year focusing on helping others take care of God's wonderful creation.

As always, if you know of other young families that would like to join us, please invite them to church.

We can arrange to have nursery help as well!

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at toucansam54@gmail.com

ANNOUNCING . . . FAMILY GAME NIGHTS!

An evening of fun for all ages!

Fridays 7:00 – 8:30 (unless the game isn't finished . . .)
Oct 19th & Dec 7th

Board Games, Cards, Desserts and Fellowship.

Save the dates – more details to follow!

Do you have a favorite card game that you would like to teach?

Do you like to play trivia games? Or Bingo?

If you have an idea or a game to share – please contact Lucia.

Because really, who doesn't love a good game?

Ice Cream Social

For all ages

Sunday, Sept 9th 11:00 (after church)

bring a topping to share!

Wear informal clothes to church to play some end of summer games!!

Invite a friend, neighbor, family member!

WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday, September 9th

The first day of CHURCH SCHOOL!

Join us for Worship and Church School.

We will have a re-covenanting service, volunteer dedication AND the choir returns to worship.

ADULT EDUCATION & STUDY *Many opportunities this fall!!*

Bible Study every Monday at 5:00. (starting Sept 24th)
The Monday Bible Study Group focuses on the worship scripture for the following Sunday. We study the text to see how God might be speaking to us today, and to recognize how our own stories and the bible stories speak to one another. *Everyone welcome.*

Useful Tools for Aging with Dignity Course

Developed by Seniors for Seniors.

This 4 – session course offers tools & tips on:

-Getting your affairs organized.

-Staying connected and active and having fun!

- Planning for when you can no longer speak for yourself to make your desires known to your doctors.

Who should attend? YOU, yes YOU
(class size limited to 12)

Dates? Sundays Oct 28th, Nov 4th, Nov 18th, Nov 25th

Time? After church & coffee hour 11:30 – 1:00

Where? The Meeting Room in our Church!

Course facilitators: Vicki Lawrence & Lucia Jackson

Women's Retreat *November 2nd – 4th At Bethany Birches Camp (in a beautiful cabin) Program/study: 5:00pm on Friday – 8:00pm on Saturday plus you can choose to stay until Sunday to relax! Cost: \$30.00 Give yourself a gift – Set aside a weekend for reflection, laughter, meditation, study, fellowship – before the holiday busyness.*
Sign up on Lucia's bulletin board.

Book Club Meeting –You are invited to watch and discuss the movie: The Shack on Fri, Sept 28th 6:30 – 9:00. (read the book too!)
Weather permitting, we will gather at the Cone's home on Emeline Lane off Webster Road for an outside movie! (think "drive in" only this is a "sit in" – bring your lawn chairs!).

If the weather does not cooperate, we'll meet at the church!
The Shack: *"After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression that causes him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever."*

Women's Fellowship/ LBS plans

Thurs, Sept 20 at 1:00 --"bring a friend" perhaps someone who might like to join our group! Decide about another quilt project. And of course, fellowship, good conversation and cookies!

Oct. 18---Trip to Wellwood orchard and lunch somewhere--we will finalize this at Sept. meet.

Nov. 15---"Jam" session--Literally---we plan to make some Jam/jelly and show you how!

The Board of Deacons will be completing our annual Pastor Evaluation this fall. We are soliciting and appreciate any input regarding our Pastor's (Lucia Jackson) performance over the last year specifically in the areas of worship services, community outreach, Christian Education (both adult and youth), and mission work. Please email: Sue D'Anna - chair BOD at sdanna147@gmail.com or any member of the Board of Deacons. Thank you in advance for your valuable input.

Board of Missions & Outreach

Neighbors in Need Offering will be received throughout the month of Oct. Neighbors in Need is an offering of the UCC and is used locally for non profit organizations and for peace and justice issues.

Serving the evening meal at the **Hixon House**: we are scheduled for Wed, October 31st. *Volunteers are needed. Please contact Carol Withington for more information or to donate food/help serve.*

Always: **Hartland Local Food Shelf** – non perishables can be dropped off here anytime. Garden produce may be donated to the food shelf at the UU in 4 Corners on Fridays 8:00-10:00.

Reflecting God's love through your generosity!! We donated 21 new backpacks and tons of supplies to our **PINS partner for children in need in our region AND 50 Church World Service** kits for children in need internationally!! The CSW bags were made by a variety of people in beautiful colors. JOY! JOY! JOY!

This thank you note from the Hartford DCF-Family Services: *“Just a brief note to say thank you to you and your members for once again helping our foster children have backpacks and school supplies! So often our children come in to care with nothing. Being able to give them backpacks & supplies always makes them smile! Thank you for all you do and know that we could not do what we do without you.”*

We had a wonderful **Youth Mission Trip** in July with 10 youth and 5 adults. Returning to New Haven, Ct for 11 years, we know the agencies, the folks who work there, the host church and the area. And we feel a deep connection to the work that Habitat for Humanity, New Reach and CCA do for folks in need of shelter, transitional housing and affordable homes.

This thank you note is from New Reach: *“Again what would we do without our wonderful Vermont volunteers. They don't make them any better – that's for sure! Thank you for everything! Chris, Ben, Erica and I cannot sing your praises enough or loud enough. Thank you for caring and being our partner for so many years. We are so very grateful!”*

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry!! We have blessed and delivered several shawls in the past few months – what a gift for someone living with illness, or grieving a loss, or homebound, or new grandparents or for a wedding. All levels of knitters & crocheters, & quilters welcome! We have yarn & patterns at the church to share if you need supplies. We will gather on Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00, Sept 25th, Oct 23rd & Nov 27th.

THE CHOIR is Back in WORSHIP!

Rehearsal at 8:30 every Sunday Morning –
PLUS Some Sundays are ‘directed Sundays’
(by Choir Director Becky Wood)
and thus a Friday Rehearsal at 5:00:
Sept 7th, Sept 21st, Sept 28th
Oct 12th, Oct 19th, Nov 2nd, Nov. 9th & Nov 16th
YOUR VOICE WELCOME & NEEDED!
Come for any or all the weeks!

A THANK YOU *Many church members volunteer their time and talent to keep our church doors open, our building systems operating and the church grounds attractive as well as running the suppers, singing in the choir, teaching Church School and providing altar flowers (to name a few!). Many folks make efforts to volunteer – just doing what needs to be done. So, here are just a few of the people to thank for efforts in the last few months.*

Thank you to:

Bradley & Scott Bowers for mowing the lawn this summer!

Jeannie & Larry Frazer for hosting the picnic in June!

Brian Porto and Connie Moser and Daun Smith for providing worship leadership when Lucia was on vacation.

Carol Withington for leading the Hixon House Team in August.

Martha McGlenn for providing beautiful garden flowers for worship each week (or for recruiting others to do it!)

TO EVERYONE who donated food to the Youth Mission Trip.
(best fed teenagers!)

Remembrance Sunday is scheduled for November 4th

A time for Remembrance will be held during worship on Sun, Nov 4th for members, loved ones and friends who died during the past year. Please give the names of persons you wish to have included in the Litany of Remembrance to Lucia before Wed, Oct 31st.

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Church Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 16th at 7:00 for all Boards and Committee Chairs. Please contact Moderator Brian Porto with any agenda items and make sure that your Board or Committee member is represented at the meeting.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

JUNIOR HIGH School Youth Group (7th & 8th grade):
generally meets every two weeks on Sundays at 5:00 – 6:15,

SENIOR HIGH School Youth Group (9th – 12th grade):
generally meets every two weeks on Sundays at 6:30 – 8:00.

However we will sometimes meet at the UCC in Hartland Village and sometimes at the UU in Hartland 4 Corners. *So you will have to note where the meeting is!*

If you did NOT go on Mission Trip 2018, you must do a new medical/contact info form – available from Lucia or Paul.

***Sept 23rd Youth Group Begins! (UCC) Trip signup & fees due**

***Sept 30th 11:30 – 6:00 ALL YOUTH TRIP TO BROMLEY!**
Leaving immediately following worship (11:30) from the UCC church, returning at 6:00pm. Parent drivers/chaperones needed! \$30 per person. Bring more money for the zipline (\$15). Sign ups & money due Sept 23rd .

***Oct 7th Youth Group! (UCC)** The Sr High Youth Group will be doing CARE PACKAGES for recent youth group graduates – please bring food/baked goods/items for packages!

***Oct 21st Youth Group! (UCC)**

***Oct 28th BRUNCH to Benefit Youth Mission Trip 2019 (UCC)** all Mission Trip 2019 participants expected to help! Parental support needed! Start prepping at 9:00, stay through Clean up.

***Nov 4** 5–6:00 pm –Junior Youth at the UU Church
6:00 pm (UU Church) **Mission Trip slide show**, and introductory info session for all 8th graders, senior youth, parents, and anyone else who is interested!
6:30–8:00 pm—Senior Youth at the UU Church

Rested, and Ready to Fight – Molly Baskette

"You restore my soul." - Psalm 23:3

First Congregational Church of Hartland, UCC
PO Box 454 Hartland, VT 05048

End of summer begins the panic and dread that we have not enjoyed summer as much as we should have. We are exhausted before we've begun thinking of all the personal, professional, and familial responsibilities that await us when the great machine starts up again in September, not even counting our 'job' as Christians to fight for justice in the public realm.

Rev. Dr. William Barber II, the architect of the new Poor People's Campaign first begun by Dr. King 50 years ago, came to my church last month. He did not get a summer vacation from the Lord's work. He has a debilitating form of arthritis that causes him tremendous pain, and yet he crisscrosses the country daily to carry his message of hope and call to action. He regularly receives death threats—against himself, as well as his wife and five children. The man has every cause to be tired and cast down! And yet here is what he said to us: "I get pessimistic. I'm not always optimistic. I'm hopeful because I'm *required* to be hopeful. There comes a time when you gotta stop mourning and pick yourself up. And if somebody ever tells me again that this is the worst we've ever seen in America. Worst?! You *tired*, and folk had to fight: 200 years against slavery, and 150 years against Jim Crow? You *tired*, and women had to fight like hell for the vote? We got the nerve to talk about TIRED? I'm tired of what I see happening, and I'm *rested*, and ready to FIGHT."

I want to remind you of the restfulness that Emily Heath urged us to last month in this devotional: "Do the things that let you keep marching. Take the trip. Take the nap. Take pleasure in the joyful things you love...If we burn out now, in the early innings, the powers of oppression and death will prevail well before the game is over."

With Bishop Barber's pain and determination in mind, with Heath's urge to observe the body's need for repose and beauty, with summer slipping away, Beloved: REST. In all caps. Then get ready to fight.

Prayer God of Sabbath, help me rest. Then God of Compassion, wake me from slumber, ready to go. Amen.

Take Action: You can join the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org.